



COMBAT VETERANS OF IWO JIMA, INC.

60th ANNIVERSARY OF IWO JIMA
February 18 -20, 2005

10004 Reddick Drive
 Silver Spring, MD 20901

C.J. O'Brien
 Email: cjobie@aol.com
 301-593-8904
 Fax 703-212-8567

REUNION OF IWO JIMA VETERANS TO MARK 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF BATTLE

Veterans of all military services who fought on, above and beside Iwo Jima will, on February 18-20, 2005, in Washington, DC honor the dead and all who fought in that costliest Pacific battle which hastened the end of World War II. Well over 1,000 World War II combat veterans and families are expected at the Reunion of Honor climaxed by the Commemorative Ceremonies February 19, the 60th anniversary of the battle, at the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, VA. The imposing bronze monument depicts the historic flag raising on Iwo Jima's Mount Suribachi and overlooks the Nation's capitol.

"The reunion itself is a benchmark in history," said retired Marine Major General Fred Haynes of Manhattan, veteran of the assault. "It's here that veterans of the battle, historically equated to Bunker Hill, Belleau Wood and Normandy, will continue passing their heritage and legacy to new generations."

The reunion, sponsored by the Combat Veterans of Iwo Jima, is part of the Department of Defense World War II 60th Anniversary commemorations "to honor those who served."

The 36-day battle for Iwo Jima cost the United States over 26,000 casualties including the lives of 6,800 servicemen, mostly Marines. The Japanese lost 22,000 defenders, most still interred under the island's "Black Sand." Three Marine Divisions made the assault with personnel from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine also engaged in the action.

Reunion Headquarters will be located at the McLean Hilton Hotel with registration and an evening reception taking place there on February 18. The banquet, attended by veterans of all services, families, active duty military guests, and numerous Honored Guests, will be held at the hotel February 19. General Michael W. Hagee, USMC, Commandant of the Marine Corps, is the invited Guest of Honor and principal speaker.

There will be visits to the Home of the Commandants, to historic Marine Barracks at "8th & Eye" Streets, and dedications at war memorials. Events will include music by Marine Corps band units. A Memorial Religious Service will be held Sunday morning, February 20.

In a separate event, both American and Japanese veterans will return to Guam and Iwo Jima, March 7-14 to mark this 60th anniversary.

A block of rooms at a reduced rate has been set aside at the McLean Hilton Hotel, McLean (Tysons Corner) Virginia. Veterans, families and friends can contact the McLean Hilton Hotel, Ph 1-800-445-8667; direct (703) 761-5111.

For further information on the reunion contact: Combat Veterans of Iwo Jima at (703) 212-0695 or Fax (703) 212-8567, E-mail CombatVetIwo@miltour.com